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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

C-71

July 25, 1931

WORLD COTTON PROSPECTS

(June and July)

Summary

During the early part of June cotton prices declined to new low levels for the season. Then, on the strength of weather conditions, the debt moratorium proposal and the rising stock market, they advanced almost 2 cents per pound by July 3. Half of this advance was lost by July 17, however, due in part at least to European financial difficulties. The world visible supply of American cotton was 33 per cent larger than it was a year ago, but is decreasing more rapidly now than it did then. The decrease in stocks in public storage and at compresses during May and June was also considerably above the decrease during 1930. Exports in both May and June were above last year bringing the total for the eleven months to only 13,000 bales below the corresponding period last season.

Although cotton consumption in the United States during May adjusted for seasonal declined about 3 per cent, sales of cotton cloth showed a substantial increase. In June cotton consumption was 10,000 bales below May compared with a 5-year average decrease from May to June of 41,000 bales and was 50,000 bales above June 1930. Sales of standard cotton cloth in June made a very marked increase, being 78 per cent above May and 119 per cent above June 1930 which resulted in an increase of 33 per cent in unfilled orders during the month.

In most foreign countries during the latter part of June the yarn and cloth markets were favorable affected by the advance in the price of raw cotton and the postponement of the war debt payments, but financial difficulties in Europe and declining cotton prices in the first half of July have been

disturbing factors. Many countries, however, even during the last of June, continued to complain of restricted business and report that the spring months showed less than the usual seasonal revival in certain lines of trade. In the Orient conditions about the middle of June were more favorable to the consumption of American cotton with production of a larger proportion of high count yarns in China and further improvement in the parity of American cotton in Japan.

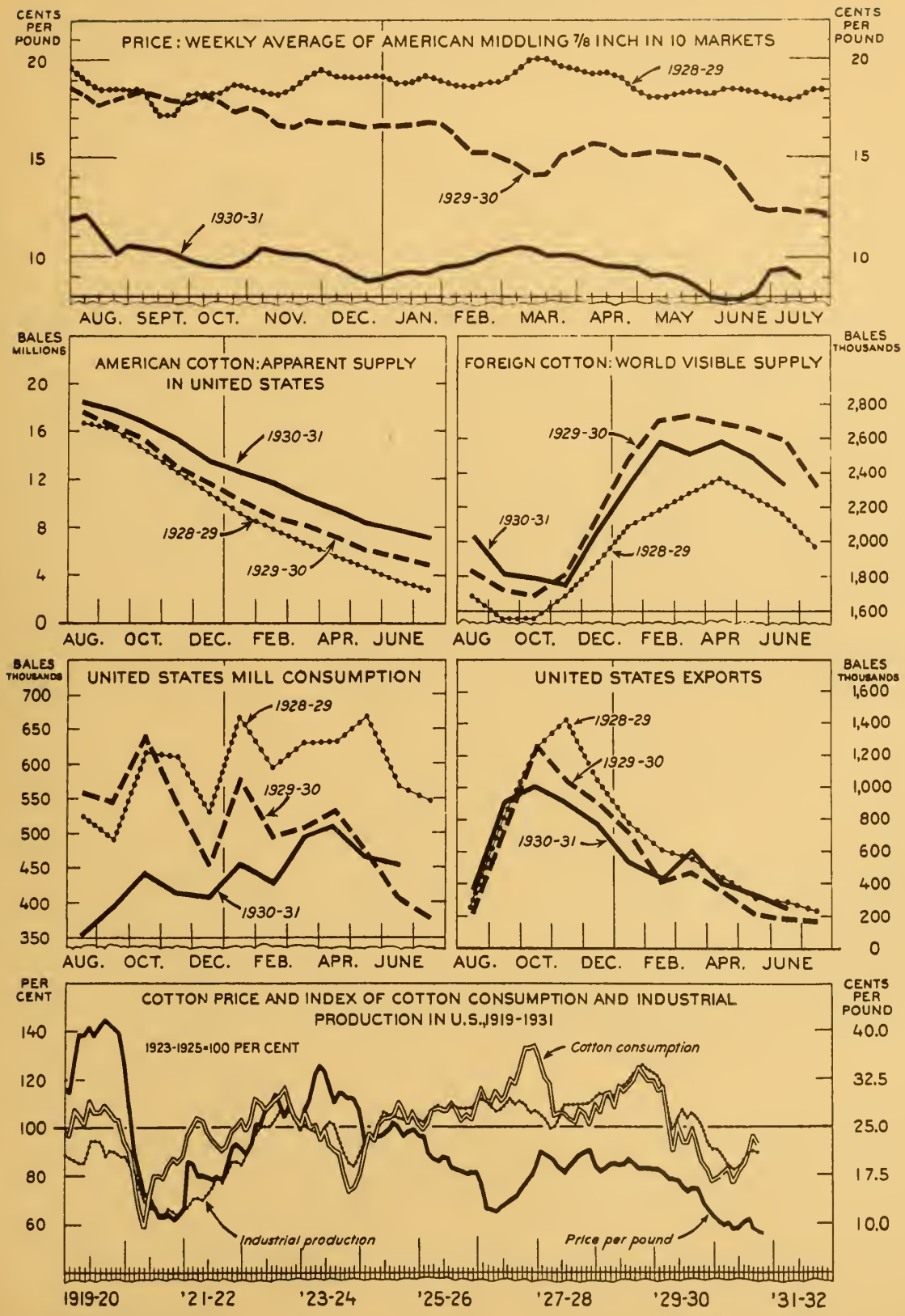
The acreage in cultivation on July 1 in the United States was estimated to be 10 per cent below last year, fertilizer tag sales for the season were about 30 per cent below last season, and weather conditions up to that time had not been favorable on the whole. About the first of July the Egyptian Government reported that the discharge of the Nile was the lowest in twenty years and that only close cooperation of the growers and the Government would avert a serious water shortage. In China spring rains have been favorable to the planting of the new crop in the northern area and it is expected that there will be considerable acreage increase, but stocks of old cotton are low. In Russia the cotton planting campaign was reported by the Soviet Government to have exceeded the "plan" and on June 20 plantings were practically complete, about 5.8 million acres having been planted which represents an increase of about 50 per cent over the 1930-31 acreage.

Prices

Spots

On June 9 the average price of spot cotton in the 10 markets declined to 7.62 cents per pound, a new low for the season and the lowest average for these 10 markets since August 16, 1915 when the average price of these markets was first compiled. Since June 9 cotton prices have strengthened considerably and on July 3 the average in the 10 markets was 9.71 cents. The average price in the 10 markets for the week ended July 4 was 9.50 cents per pound or 161 points above the average for the week ended June 6. This strengthening in cotton prices was influenced by somewhat unfavorable weather

THE COTTON PROSPECT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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conditions in the South during this period, the rise in the stock market, and a more optimistic feeling among speculators and members of the trade as to the outlook for general business and international trade arising out of the President's debt moratorium proposal. After the first three days in July a reaction took place due, in part at least, to the financial difficulties existing in Europe and on July 16 cotton prices in the 10 markets averaged 8.71 cents per pound, or 1 cent below the average on July 3.

The average price received by producers in the United States on June 15 was 7.7 cents per pound, 1.1 cents per pound below May 15 and compares with an average of 14.0 cents on June 15, 1930, and 17.9 cents on June 15, 1929. This was the lowest price received by producers in the United States on the 15th of the month since February, 1915. During the 1914-15 season prices received by domestic producers averaged only 7.4 cents per pound for the whole season.

In Liverpool prices of the most important growths of spot cotton made net advances of 3 to 17 per cent from June 19 to July 17. The greatest percentage increase was made in Indian cotton, the average advance of three types being 14 per cent. Medium quality cotton such as American middling 7/8 inch, Brazilian, Ceara and Sao Paulo advanced 9 per cent while the average advance for Peruvian Tanguis, Egyptian Uppers and Sakel was 6 per cent. This greater advance in Indian cotton as compared with American, increases the competitiveness of American cotton. About the middle of June Indian cotton in Bremen was selling at the highest prices relative to American since 1927-28 and following this development it was reported that buying of Indian cotton was limited as a result of the high relative prices. This price relationship in Bremen was even more favorable for the sale of American cotton about the middle of July if the movements of Bremen prices have corresponded to those in Liverpool.

Stocks and movements

Apparent supply remaining in the United States

Since both exports and consumption during June were larger than in June 1930, the apparent supply of American cotton remaining in the United States decreased more in June 1931 than in June 1930. The decrease in June amounting to 700,000 bales compared with 571,000 bales in June last year. The 7.1 million bale supply remaining in this country, however, is about 2.1 million bales or 42 per cent above a year earlier and 4.3 million bales above the apparent supply existing on the first of July 1929.

World visible supply

The total visible supply of all cotton on Friday, July 10, amounted to 7,489,000 running bales compared with 5,640,000 bales and 4,129,000 bales on the corresponding dates of 1930 and 1929, respectively, according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. The visible supply showed a decrease of 569,000 bales during the past four weeks. The decreases during the corresponding four weeks last year and the year before were 532,000 and 730,000 bales respectively. While the total visible supply of all cotton on July 10 was 1,849,000 bales or 33 per cent above a year earlier the supply of foreign

cotton was 121,000 bales or 5 per cent below a year ago, but was 249,000 bales above the corresponding date in 1929. Stocks of Indian cotton at Bombay on July 10 were about 274,000 bales below and stocks of Egyptian cotton at Alexandria about 145,000 bales above the corresponding date in 1930. The visible supply of American cotton which on July 10 amounted to 5,117,000 bales was 63 per cent above one year ago and 155 per cent above the same date in 1929. The visible supply of American cotton, however, decreased 490,000 bales during the four weeks ended July 10, 1931 compared with 372,000 bales during the corresponding period last year.

Stocks in consuming establishments

Total stocks of raw cotton in domestic consuming establishments at the end of June amounted to 1,130,000 running bales compared with 1,357,000 bales a year earlier or a decrease of 17 per cent. This brings stocks in consuming establishments to the lowest level since the end of September, 1930 and the lowest for the corresponding date since 1925.

Stocks of foreign cotton in consuming establishments very often increase at this time of year, but during May and June this year they decreased about 6,000 bales and on June 30 amounted to 74,000 bales compared with 142,000 bales one year earlier.

Stocks in public storage and at compresses

On June 30, 1931, total stocks of all cotton in public storage and at compresses in the United States amounted to 4,971,000 bales, 1,865,000 bales or 60 per cent above June 30, 1930 and 261 per cent above the same day in 1929, according to reports of the Bureau of the Census. These stocks records are available back to 1913 and in no time previously have they been above 4,300,000 bales at this time of year, this having been the record for June 30, 1921. The decrease in stocks in public storage and at compresses during June amounted to 523,000 bales compared with a decrease of 274,000 bales in June 1930 and 469,000 bales in June 1929.

Exports of domestic cotton

Domestic exports of raw cotton in June totaled about 255,000 running bales compared with 336,000 bales in May, 185,000 in June 1930 and 299,000 bales in June 1929, according to reports of the Bureau of the Census. This brings total exports for the eleven months ended June 30, 1931 to 6,501,000 bales which is only 13,000 bales, or less than 1 per cent, below the corresponding period last season. June exports were 80,000 bales below May whereas during the past five years exports in June have averaged 90,000 bales below May. Exports to the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, and Japan were higher during June this year than in June 1930.

Exports of cotton from India and Egypt

For the four weeks ended July 9, 1931 total exports from India amounted to 200,000 bales compared with 196,000 bales and 223,000 bales during the corresponding four weeks periods in 1930 and 1929, respectively, according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. Total exports from India from August 1 to July 9 which amounted to 3,212,000 running bales were 4,000 bales, or

less than 1 per cent, above a year earlier, but slightly below the same period in the 1928-29 season. Exports from India to Great Britain and also to Japan and China so far this season, have been above the 1929-30 and 1928-29 seasons while exports to the Continent have been below the two previous seasons.

Exports from Alexandria for the four weeks ended July 8, 1931 amounted to 66,000 bales according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. During the corresponding weeks in 1930 and 1929 exports from Alexandria were 28,000 and 271,000 bales respectively. For the 1930-31 season up to July 8 exports from Alexandria have totaled 833,000 bales, 15,000 bales, or 2 per cent, below the corresponding period last season and 406,000 bales or 33 per cent below the 1928-29 season. Exports of Egyptian cotton to the Continent and India so far this season, however, have been above both the 1929-30 and 1928-29 season.

Continental spinners takings of American cotton

Takings of American cotton by spinners of Continental Europe during the four weeks ended about June 12 amounted to 241,000 bales compared to 245,000 bales during this period last year. In the three years previous takings ranged from 361,000 to 443,000 bales during this four weeks period. Takings from August 1, 1930 to June 12 this year were about 644,000 bales, or 17 per cent, below last year and more than 1,100,000 bales, or 29 per cent, below the same period in 1928-29.

Textile situation

United States

Domestic consumption of raw cotton during May, amounting to 466,000 running bales, was 43,000 bales below April and 8,000 bales below May 1930, according to the Bureau of the Census. During the past ten years domestic mill consumption for May has averaged practically the same as in April. The index of cotton consumption, therefore, adjusted for seasonal variation, declined from 96 in April to 95 in May. Consumption during June was 455,000 bales, 11,000 bales below May, but 50,000 bales above June 1930. During the past five years June consumption has averaged 41,000 bales below May. The total consumption for the season at the end of June amounted to 4,820,000 bales, compared with 5,727,000 bales during the same period last season and 6,544,000 bales in the 1928-29 season, or a decrease this season compared with the two previous seasons of 16 and 26 per cent.

The production of standard cotton cloth during May averaged 56.3 million yards per week compared with 56.5 million yards a week during April, according to the report of the Association of Cotton Textile Merchants of New York. This decrease of only 0.2 million yards under April compares with an average decrease of 4.5 million yards in the three years 1928-1930. Sales of cotton cloth during May showed an increase of 5.6 million yards per week over April, the average weekly sales in May amounting to 40.0 million yards. Both production and sales during May this year were above May 1930. In view of the fact that during the past three years sales in May have averaged 14.6 million yards or 23.0 per cent below April, the month as a whole was fairly satisfactory although stocks increased 7.0

per cent and unfilled orders decreased 15.6 per cent during the month. Shipments declined during May, the weekly average for the month amounting to 51.4 million yards compared with 54.4 million in April.

During June production of standard cotton cloth on a weekly basis decreased 4.3 million yards or 7.7 per cent compared with May, averaged 2.4 million yards per week above June 1930, and was the lowest since last January. The average decrease in production during June compared with May was less than 0.1 million yards per week during the past three years. Sales in June, however, during these three weeks averaged 3.3 million yards per week above May, but in June this year sales on a weekly basis were 31.2 million yards or 78 per cent above May, 38.7 million yards or 119 per cent above June 1930, 36.8 per cent above production and were the largest with the exception of February since September 1930.

Shipments in June were likewise above May averaging 54.8 million yards per week, 6.6 per cent above May, 20.0 per cent above June 1930 and was 5.3 per cent above production. The increase in sales and shipments and the decrease in production resulted in an increase of 33.0 per cent in unfilled orders and a decrease of 4.5 per cent in stocks. Not since September 1928 has there been as large a percentage increase in unfilled orders in one month as during June.

Great Britain

The British cotton textile industry showed no significant improvement during May and June although reports for the latter part of June state that the yarn, cloth, and raw cotton markets were all favorably affected by the proposed postponement of the war debt payments and that there was a larger demand for cloth and yarn both from the domestic market and the foreign markets, but exports of piece goods were even lower in June than in May. Exports of piece goods from Great Britain during May totaled 141.5 million square yards and were 6.3 million square yards, or 4.7 per cent, above April, but 76.6 million square yards, or 49.7 per cent, below May, 1930. During the past ten years exports of piece goods during May have averaged about 21 million square yards, or 7.1 per cent above April. In June exports of cotton piece goods totaled 132.8 million square yards, a decrease of 8.7 million square yards under May. Total exports of piece goods for the season August through June amounted to 1,569.3 million square yards, 1,300.7 million square yards, or 45 per cent, below the corresponding period last season. This decrease in exports of piece goods from Great Britain was due largely to the decline in exports to India. As has been pointed out before, the great decline in exports to India is to be attributed to the Indian boycott on foreign cloth, the increase in tariff rates, and poor business conditions. Exports to practically all foreign countries have declined, but since India takes about 40 per cent of the total British exports whereas the next largest consuming country takes only about 5 per cent, factors affecting exports to India are by far the most important individually from the standpoint of the British cotton textile industry. Exports to India from January through May, 1931, totaled 175.6 million square yards compared with 552.8 million square yards in the same period last year, a decrease of 377.2 million square yards or 68 per cent. Exports to all countries during the first five months this year totaled 715.1 million square yards, 46.2 per cent or 614 million square yards below the same period in 1930.

Early July reports state that demands from India for certain types of cloth were better and that business with China, Africa, and South America was fairly active. Later reports indicate that the yarn turnover is small and cloth business is disorganized by the German situation.

Continental Europe 1/

The continental cotton situation was dominated during May by a further decline in raw cotton prices and by general pessimism in the cotton trade. The drop in raw cotton prices to new low levels was reflected in renewed reluctance of continental spinners to make new commitments in raw material. Nevertheless, the opinion in cotton mill and trade circles appeared to be quite general that the recession in cotton prices during May and early June was due chiefly to the decline in the stock markets and to general economic pessimism because of budgetary and other problems in several important countries, rather than to cotton supply and demand factors. Many observers felt that crop prospects were largely lost sight of in the market movements during this period. During the latter part of June a more hopeful tone developed as a result of the improvement in the raw cotton market and, in general, economic sentiment incident to the Hoover debt moratorium proposal. There is little doubt, however, that the recent financial difficulties in Germany and some of the other European countries has had a depressing effect on economic sentiment and was a contributing factor to the recent reaction in cotton prices.

The reluctance of continental spinners toward new purchases and price fixing of raw cotton during May was most evident during the first half of the month, when the fall in prices was largely attributed to stop-loss selling and voluntary liquidation of longs. As the recession continued during the second half of the month, spinners, especially in Central Europe, began to regain confidence and to take advantage of the unexpectedly low level of raw prices by placing larger fixing orders and making new purchases of cotton for the summer months and even into the fall. If it were not for the acute depression existing and the limited financial resources of many firms, it appears that investment buying of raw cotton, particularly by Central European spinners, would have assumed much greater proportions.

Spinner and weaver sales of cotton yarn and cotton cloth on the Continent continued rather unsatisfactory in May notwithstanding some seasonal improvement in parts of Central Europe. Prices also remained unsatisfactory as a result of the very keen competition existing. Business in France has also become unfavorable, with the general strike in the Roubaix-Tourcoing textile mills contributing to difficulties. Spinning and weaving mill activity on the whole increased during March and April, especially in Central Europe, as indicated in our previous reports.

Spinner and weaver sales as well as spinning and weaving mill activity must be regarded as having continued unsatisfactory during June with orders remaining small over most of the Continent in spite of the psychological effects

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1/ Based primarily on reports from Agricultural Attaché L. V. Steere at Berlin.

of the debt moratorium. There was some slight improvement, however, in bookings in parts of Central Europe, particularly Germany, and at certain points in Italy, in the latter country, however, only during the last few days of the month. It is thought that the mill activity in Europe as a whole during June was about unchanged compared with May which was perhaps a little below April.

Germany

Conditions in the German cotton textile industry improved only slightly in May as compared with the previous two months, and this improvement was largely of seasonal character. Sales of both spinners and weavers became somewhat more active, especially in Saxony. Spinning mill activity rose to an important extent during March and April, but remained materially below any of the past several years, except the extremely low levels of 1926, when depression was also acute. Weaving mill activity has fluctuated recently around more stable levels. In June the situation remained unsatisfactory, although there was a significant improvement in new business in the latter part of June. The July decline in raw cotton prices and the recent financial difficulties have been disturbing factors.

The spinning and weaving mill activity in the German cotton textile industry as reported by the German Institute for Economic Research is now available through April. As stated in our last report the index of spinning mill activity in January was 84 (activity from July 1924 to June 1926 = 100). In February the index advanced to 87, in March to 91 and in April to 98. This was the highest rate of activity in the spinning mills of Germany since May 1930, but was still 19 per cent below April 1930. Operations in these mills so far this season have averaged 90 per cent of the 1924-1926 base period compared with an average of 105 per cent during the nine months ended April 1930 and 102 in the corresponding months of the 1928-29 season.

In the weaving industry activity dropped from 65.6 per cent of a nine hour single shift capacity in January to 63.5 per cent in February, advanced to 66.6 per cent in March and in April was 65.5. In April 1930 weaving mill activity was 69.3 and in April 1929, 70.8. The average activity in the weaving mills during the first nine months this season was 64.9 compared with 72.2 and 79.4 during the corresponding periods in 1929-30 and 1928-29, respectively. The average activity in both the spinning and weaving mills advanced from 74.8 in January, the lowest point since June 1930, to 75.2 in February, 78.6 in March and 81.8 in April. This compares with an average of 93.2 in April 1930 and 87.9 in April 1929. So far this season (August-April) activity has averaged about 10 per cent below last season and 13 per cent below the same part of the 1928-29 season.

Imports of cotton yarn into Germany during May amounted to about 3.9 million pounds compared with 3.8 million pounds in April, 3.7 million pounds in March, 3.5 million in February, (the lowest in several years) 5.4 million in April 1930, and 6.3 million in April 1929. Imports of woven material made an increase in April, amounting to 1.4 million pounds compared with less than 1.2 million in March, was 337,000 pounds above the low December imports, and was only 46,000 pounds below the imports of April 1930. In June, however, imports of woven materials showed a small decline. Total imports of both yarn and woven materials amounted to 5.2 million pounds in April,

0.3 million pounds or 6.3 per cent above March, but 1.7 million pounds or 24.9 per cent below April 1930 and showed an additional increase in June, but were still below June 1930. Imports of both for the first ten months this season totaled 53.4 million pounds, 17.5 million pounds or 25 per cent below the corresponding period in 1929-30, and 40 per cent below the 1928-29 season.

During the latter part of June the relation of raw cotton prices and yarn prices has improved somewhat from the spinners point of view, but the yarn margin is still lower than during recent years generally.

The German cotton spinners succeeded in setting up the stronger cartel planned, and the cartel was to have been in force for twelve months beginning with June 8, 1931. Plans called for a production of 60 to 70 per cent of a nine hour shift capacity only (which is 70 to 80 per cent of eight hour shift capacity). As only about 60 per cent of all German cotton spindles came under the agreement, it was easily possible that, under improving conditions, that 90 per cent of eight hour shift capacity for the German cotton spinning industry as a whole could be reached. Furthermore, the cartel agreement provided that the agreement might be altered if economic circumstances should demand it. Apparently, therefore, the cartel agreement would not have prevented increased raw cotton consumption if conditions really improved. By June 13, however, the cartel had been dissolved, but those interested were in hopes of reorganizing it.

Czechoslovakia and Austria

These two countries continue to complain of restricted business in yarn and cloth, and of less than the usual seasonal revival in certain lines of the trade. Mill activity in both countries remains on a rather stable but low level. The slight improvement in Austrian textiles during the first several months of 1931 was only temporary and has given way to a renewed dullness. Sales of spinning and weaving mills to domestic customers have declined and the same is true of export business. The recent difficulties of the largest Austrian bank, which is closely linked with several enterprises in the textile industry in both Austria and Czechoslovakia, have intensified the weak position of some mills, so that further curtailment of operations may occur. The hopes maintained in Austria for a good improvement in the position of cotton spinning mills through the setting up of a customs union with Germany are still far from being realized, inasmuch as the carrying out of the whole plan is still very doubtful. In recent trade negotiations with Hungary, Austria is said to have acquired an important cotton yarn export contingent which, if put in force, may bring some relief.

The Czechoslovakian textile industry is urging the formation of a central European customs union on basis of preferential agreements with southeastern European agrarian countries. The efforts to attain an organized restriction of cotton yarn production in Czechoslovakia, through the buying-up of a certain percentage of the spinning mills, have not been successful, as the banks have not given the necessary assistance and as outsiders opposed the plan. The mill situation in Czechoslovakia, however, is better than in Austria, particularly in the weaving branch; yet great uncertainty persists. Spinning mill activity showed a slight improvement from April to May, but exports of both cotton yarn and fabrics declined and are still considerably below any year since 1926.

France

In May France also reported a very weak situation in the cotton yarn market though sales of cotton cloth held up rather satisfactorily. Roubaix-Tourcoing reported very small sales of cotton yarn at unsatisfactory prices, even though the outbreak of a general textile strike around the middle of May completely interrupted production. Elsewhere, spinning and weaving mill activity remained about unchanged. Trading in Alsace, however, was also somewhat dampened by the failure of an important textile concern. French spinner buying of raw cotton and price fixing through May were rather quiet.

During June some accumulation of yarn and cloth stocks took place in France, especially in the North, but further accumulation was prevented and is being prevented by curtailment of production due to the strike. New sales of both yarn and cloth were small during June and the demand for raw cotton was quiet except during the latter part of the month. The annual report of the French Spinners' Association indicates that new orders during the first quarter of 1931 were 32 per cent below the quarterly average for 1929 in the case of spinning mills and 20 per cent below in the case of weaving mills.

Belgium

Belgium was reported as trying to arrange an organized restriction of production. At the same time, there were reports indicating that business to the French district of Roubaix-Tourcoing increased considerably as a result of the general textile strike there, so that some mills benefited from these conditions and seemed less inclined to join a production-restricting agreement.

Italy

Italy continued in deep depression during May and June with spinner demand for raw cotton very low and yarn as well as cloth sales restricted, but some temporary pickup was reported the last of June. Spinning and weaving mill activity were running about 20 per cent below last year, spinners' stocks of cotton yarn above, and unfilled orders below those of last year. A slight pickup in cotton yarn sales was reported during the second half of May which was considered somewhat above the low level of current production. There is little doubt but that the disturbing effect of the recent financial difficulties of some of the Central European countries has decreased current sales.

Poland

The cotton situation in Poland continued unsatisfactory through May and June. Business in yarn and cloth, as well as raw cotton was generally restricted. The reorganized spinner cartel had not become effective in May and stocks of cotton yarn at Lodz seemed unusually large. Financial difficulties in Poland, with the failure of an important West-Polish bank in the foreground, added to the bad situation of the industry during May, as floating funds continued to be urgently needed and obtainable only with difficulty, and one of the largest cotton mills at Lodz shut down early in the month. It is expected that the spinners cartel will set up a sales office and again normalize production which continued too large during May, or about the same level as in April. It is reported that the Polish Government has exerted some pressure upon outsiders to join the cartel by a plan to introduce a special duty on non-cartel cotton.

Japan

Although both yarn and cotton prices declined during May and the first three weeks in June the declines were such as to make spinning operations more profitable and further improve the parity of American cotton. According to Consul Donovan in a message received June 29. Prices of American spot cotton dropped 9 per cent during this period while Indian Oomras for July delivery dropped 4 per cent and spot yarn prices 5 per cent. Yarn futures prices, however, were unchanged. Imports of American cotton during May amounted to about 161,000 running bales or about 3,000 bales below the April imports of American, but were almost 60,000 bales above the imports of Indian cotton whereas during the past few months imports of Indian cotton have been considerably larger than imports of American. Visible raw cotton stocks in Japan at the end of May were considerably above a year ago, the total amounting to 469,000 bales compared with 372,000 bales a year earlier. Visible stocks of American cotton at the end of May amounted to 269,000 bales, 87,000 bales or 47.8 per cent above a year ealirer. Yarn production, however, is now increasing and is almost up to the level of a year ago. Yarn production during May amounted to 215,000 bales compared with 198,000 bales in February 198,000 in March and to 206,000 in April, and 228,000 bales in May 1930. This gain is due primarily to increased production of yarn below twenty counts. This increase in the production of lower count yarn is not so encouraging from the standpoint of American cotton since the lower count yarns contain a larger proportion of Indian cotton than do the medium count yarns. Sales have not quite kept pace with the increased production as the visible yarn stocks showed some increase in May over April.

Transactions in imported Chinese yarn increased during May due to the higher margin of profits for Japanese spinners, but business in piece goods has been dull and weaver's profits small. Cloth exports amounting to 111.9 million square yards were somewhat restricted, due in part to higher prices asked by the Japanese weavers during March and April and in part to the general dullness of business in spite of the increase in yarn and cloth production.

China

The cotton yarn markets in China on June 15 were holding firm with an increase in demand from Canton and the northern ports, but spinners were reluctant to make commitments very far ahead due to the uncertainty of the political situation, according to a cable received from Agricultural Commissioner Dawson at Shanghai. Yarn stocks on that date were reported to have been reduced, but were still quite large. Spinning mill activity during the first part of June was about equal to that of a year ago but a larger proportion of high count yarns are now being spun which is favorable for the consumption of American cotton. Spinning mills on the whole have been more active than usual this spring and summer and while stocks of yarn are fairly large, they are predominantly low count yarns due to the poor demand for that class. High count yarns have been moving well. In early July the Japanese mills in China were sold out through November. Chinese mills on the other hand have made only a small amount of forward sales. Business in piece goods has been good due to the high price of imported materials, but future commitments are only moderate because of the unsettled political conditions in the interior.

As a result of the larger proportion of high count yarns being produced this year than last, imports of American cotton in China have for most of the current season been larger than last year. Total imports of American cotton into Shanghai from January through March this year were 118,000 bales of 478 pounds net and imports during April reached almost 31,000 bales, but in May declined to 23,000 bales bringing total imports of American from January to May to 172,000 bales. It is expected that reports for the quarter ended June 30 this year will show imports of American cotton materially above those of the corresponding period last year and it has been reported that buying for the summer months has been good and it is expected that the demand for raw cotton will continue good although stocks of Indian and American cotton about the first of July were fairly large. Chinese imports of Indian cotton for the first five months of 1931 amounted to 223,000 bales of 478 pounds net, but declined from 50,000 bales in April to 24,000 in May. It is also expected that the Chinese will continue to take a considerable amount of Indian cotton due to the deficiency of Chinese cotton for the production of low count yarns. Stocks of native cotton are considerably below those of last year in China as a whole, about the same as last year in Tientsin, but much lower in Hankow and Shanghai.

Spring rains have been favorable for cotton planting in the northern area and large acreage increases in this region have been reported with moderate increases in the southern region, and the indications are that the acreage planted this year in the whole of China will be the largest in recent years. A report about the middle of July stated that there had been too much rain in the Yangtze Valley.

C-71 Production, acreage and crop condition reports

United States

The following table shows the estimated cotton acreage in cultivation July 1, 1931 with comparisons, as reported by the Crop Reporting Board:

Table 1.- Estimate of cotton acreage by States

State	10-year average abandonment 1921-1930	Area in cultivation July 1, 1930	Area in cultivation July 1, 1931 Percentage of 1930	Area in cultivation July 1, 1931 Acreage
	Per cent	Acres	Per cent	Acres
Va.	2.0	91,000	75	68,000
N. C.	1.6	1,656,000	82	1,358,000
S. C.	2.6	2,191,000	89	1,950,000
Ga.	3.6	3,906,000	88	3,437,000
Fla.	4.5	122,000	100	122,000
Mo.	4.5	377,000	90	339,000
Tenn.	2.1	1,250,000	90	1,125,000
Ala.	1.6	3,789,000	90	3,410,000
Miss.	2.3	4,290,000	94	4,033,000
La.	2.4	2,142,000	90	1,928,000
Tex.	3.8	17,528,000	92	16,126,000
Okla.	6.2	4,099,000	83	3,402,000
Ark.	2.3	3,996,000	92	3,676,000
New Mex.	1/ 9.9	134,000	90	121,000
Ariz. 2/	1.4	215,000	83	178,000
Calif.	1.7	273,000	75	205,000
All other	1/ 4.1	19,000	71	13,000
U. S. Total	3.4	46,078,000	90.0	41,491,000
Lower Calif. (Old Mexico) c/	1.4	101,000	68	69,000

1/ Nine-year average, 1922-1930.
2/ Including Pima Egyptian long staple cotton estimated at 32,000 acres this year compared with 46,000 acres in cultivation July 1, 1930.
3/ Not included in California figures, nor in United States total.

Comments accompanying cotton report as of July 1, 1931

The acreage of cotton in cultivation in the United States on July 1 is estimated by the Crop Reporting Board to be 41,491,000 acres, which is 10.0 per cent less than the acreage on July 1, 1930, 11.8 per cent less than in 1929, and 14.9 per cent below the record acreage of 48,730,000 planted in 1926. The acreage as estimated this year is lower than the planted acreage of any year since 1923.

All States, except Florida, show smaller acreages than in 1930. The acreage in Texas is estimated at 92 per cent of last year. North Carolina and Oklahoma with 82 per cent and 83 per cent of 1930, respectively, show the largest percentage decreases of any States in the Cotton Belt proper. A reduction of 10 per cent is estimated in Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and

Missouri. In South Carolina the acreage is given at 89 per cent of 1930; Georgia 88 per cent; Mississippi 94 per cent; and Arkansas 92 per cent.

The acreage of Pima Egyptian long staple cotton in Arizona is estimated at 32,000 acres compared with 46,000 acres in cultivation July 1, 1930.

No report on probable production is made by the Board until August. At that time the production forecast will be based on the forecast yield per harvested acre applied to the acreage in cultivation on July 1, less 10-year average abandonment in each State after that date.

Fertilizer tag sales

Sales of fertilizer tags in the nine most important cotton producing States in the 1930-31 season, December through May, totaled 3,011,000 short tons, according to reports of the National Fertilizer Association. This is 30.2 per cent below the 4,311,000 short tons sold during the corresponding period in the 1929-30 season. Since a very large part of the fertilizer used on cotton is sold during this period, this should represent fairly well the reduction in the fertilizer used on the 1931 cotton crop. In Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas, fertilizer tag sales have been less than half those of the 1929-30 season. Tag sales in North Carolina and South Carolina have held up better than in any of the other important cotton producing States with the exception of Oklahoma where little fertilizer is used. In these two States tag sales have been about 20 and 22 per cent respectively below last season.

Weather conditions

Temperatures averaged considerably above normal during three weeks ended June 30 in the Cotton Belt as a whole, according to the weekly reports of the Weather Bureau. Rainfall also averaged below normal and in many sections cotton and other crops were suffering from lack of rain on June 30. Parts of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia were in need of rain at that time while conditions in the Carolinas were reported as fairly favorable. Although the weather has not been good for the crop it has likewise been unfavorable for the boll weevil.

India

The final estimate of the 1930-31 Indian cotton acreage was placed at 23,616,000 acres compared with 25,922,000 acres for 1929-30 and 27,053,000 acres for 1928-29. This is a reduction of 9 per cent in the 1930-31 acreage as compared with 1929-30. The 1930-31 production was estimated at 4,033,000 bales of 478 pounds net, a decrease of 6 per cent under the previous year and 17 per cent from the 1 28-29 production. This decrease of 6 per cent in production was obtained by using the revised 1929-30 production estimate. The size of the commercial crop during the 1929-30 season seems to indicate that perhaps this revised production estimate of 4,289,000 bales is too small and for that reason the previous official estimate of 4,402,000 bales has been used in the accompanying table. Compared with this figure the 1930-31 estimate shows a decrease of 8 per cent.

Egypt

Total ginnings in Egypt for the 1930-31 season to July 1 amounted to about 1,637,000 bales of 478 pounds net. This includes about 37,000 bales of low grade cotton, according to a cable received from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. About 400,000 bales or 24 per cent of this total was of the Sakellaridis variety. In previous years these reports of ginnings have been made only to the first of April and showed something over 90 per cent of the official estimate for the total crop. In some of the previous issues it has been noted that receipts and ginnings were running considerably behind those of the last two years and that this suggested that perhaps the official estimate for the total crop was considerably too high. It now appears that there was a change in the program of ginning for the 1930-31 crop which accounts for a large part of the change in relationship between early ginnings and the final estimate. The final estimate of production for 1930-31 placed the crop at 1,661,000 bales of 478 pounds. This was 36,000 bales below the December estimate and 107,000 bales or 6 per cent below the final estimate of the 1929-30 crop.

The 1931-32 Egyptian cotton crop made unusual progress during the last two weeks of May except in the northern end of the Nile delta, which section is reported somewhat late, according to the Cotton Growing Report by the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture forwarded by Cotton Specialist P.K. Norris at Cairo. This lower delta area is the region in which most of the Sakellaridis variety is grown and in which the Government restricted cotton plantings to 40 per cent of the area in cultivation. Weather conditions during the second half of May were considered favorable, the water supply was adequate up to that time and in no place did the crop suffer as a result of inadequacy of water. While the report states the supply was sufficient it admits that water was low in both upper and lower Egypt and that considerable difficulties were encountered in conveying water to canal tails. Since the greatest water requirements come during the months of June, July and August, and in view of the difficulties already encountered, it seemed likely that crops at the extreme ends of the canals would suffer as the summer requirements become heavy. A more recent cable from Mr. Norris reports that according to the Egyptian Government the discharge of the Nile is now the lowest in twenty years and that only cooperation of growers and the Government will avert a real water shortage. The Government is taking action to conserve the water as much as possible for the peak period of water requirement is expected about the middle of August.

China

The 1930-31 crop was better than in the previous year in Chihili, but much poorer in the Hankow and Shanghai regions, according to a cabled report from Agricultural Commissioner Dawson at Shanghai. An unofficial estimate places the 1930-31 crop at 2,457,000 bales of 478 pounds net compared with a production of 2,116,000 bales during 1929-30. The reports from which the 1930-31 crop was made covered a slightly larger area than was true for the 1929-30 crop. Information obtained from other sources does not indicate such a large increase in the 1930-31 crop as the above estimate, for that reason the estimates have not been included in the accompanying table showing production in specified countries. Spring rains have been favorable to the

planting of the 1931-32 crop in the northern areas where rather large acreage increases have taken place. Reports from various sources agree that a materially larger cotton acreage was being planted in China with an increase of 10 per cent in the important districts of Tunchow. Some acreage increase was reported in Tientsin and in Hankow, but it seems doubtful that there would be any increase in the Kiangshu region. The condition of the crop about the end of June was generally good.

Russia 1/

Recent press reports and trade communications have devoted considerable attention to the question of raw cotton supplies from Russia and the success of the Soviet Government in building up cotton production during the past few years. The question has been raised whether or not Russia will, in the near future, become an important competitor in world cotton markets, and eventually to an extent that will endanger the position of the traditional cottons used by the spinners of the Old World.

We have repeatedly pointed out in our reports that Russia appeared likely to cease to be an important consumer of American cotton and would probably supply moderate quantities of its own cotton to the world market. The sales of Russian cotton at Liverpool in recent months indicate that Russia is now apparently in a position to export cotton produced in Middle Asia or Transcaucasus of qualities said to be satisfactory to European spinners both as to character and staple. Urgent need for foreign exchange may have been a factor in some of these cotton exports, and certainly appeared an influence in the low prices accepted, but continued and increased competition from Russian cotton seems in prospect. As far as total world requirements are concerned, Russian supplies will probably not play a decisive role for a considerable time to come, however, even though there appear to be possibilities even yet for great expansion of raw cotton production in Russia during the course of the next few years. On the other hand, the Soviet Government is aiming at a large increase in the manufacture of cotton cloth within the country and the raising of the level of cotton goods consumption, which is now extremely low. In fact this increase in the manufacture of cotton goods is already under way as the plans for 1931 calls for an increase of 20 per cent over the 1930 production. The 1930 production, however, was lower than had been planned due to a shortage of raw materials, imports having been reduced 44.2 per cent during the Russian economic year ended October 1930. Under more nearly normal conditions the cotton produced within Russia will probably be largely needed within the country to enable carrying out the plan to bring the standard of cotton goods consumption within Russia to levels existing in other countries.

The Russian cotton planting campaign was practically finished by May 25 in all parts of the cotton growing regions, with the Government plans fully executed and even exceeded. Total plantings to May 25 are reported to have been 5,817,000 acres or 102.3 per cent of the plan, as compared with 3,642,000 acres planted to the same date a year ago and somewhat over the

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1/ Based largely on report dated June 5, 1931 from Agricultural Attaché L. V. Steere at Berlin.

Cotton; Production of lint in specified countries, average 1909-13, annual 1921-22 to 1930-31

Country	Average 1909-13	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31 Preliminary
	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/
United States	13,033,000	7,954,000	9,755,000	10,140,000	13,628,000	16,104,000	17,977,000	12,955,000	14,478,000	14,828,000	13,932,000
Mexico	187,000	147,030	201,540	175,380	196,332	202,247	359,823	179,238	278,460	246,029	169,000
Total L. American countries reporting 1921-22 to 1929-30		8,101,030	9,956,540	10,315,380	13,824,332	16,306,247	18,336,823	13,134,238	14,756,460	15,074,029	
Venezuela				47,280	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,285		
Columbia		2/	11,300	2/ 11,200	12,456	15,912	24,906	11,207	9,501	10,000	10,000
Peru	110,000	186,109	198,875	212,140	211,522	204,305	246,168	245,615	210,000	226,994	
Ecuador	2/ 297	3,607	4,312	11,079	11,500	6,100	6,340	5,800	2/ 5,097	2/ 6,788	
Brazil	387,000	504,000	553,000	576,000	605,134	601,520	512,395	487,041	525,234	560,000	400,000
Paraguay	4/ 92	2,616	5,844	16,265	12,222	11,481	8,486	-	-	15,000	20,000
Argentina	2,314	16,129	25,994	58,846	70,711	133,844	60,424	101,467	132,368	150,000	
Haiti 3/	9,300	21,533	15,505	15,500	16,630	23,035	22,604	20,419	21,929		
Porto Rico	5/ 1,319	921	1,046	1,020	1,900	1,891	1,373	960	1,335		
British West Indies	6,058	3,118	5,555	5,329	4,579	4,395	4,281	4,245	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total South and Central American countries and West Indies reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		712,963	757,736	863,394	903,446	950,167	829,608	844,168	876,699	936,782	
Italy	5,212		4,600	5,000	4,520					3,281	
Yugoslavia	2/ 922	239	259	203	385	580	385	190			
Greece	6/7/ 12,514	5,387	8,377	11,135	14,220	14,609	17,759	12,571	14,875	12,000	9,000
Bulgaria	842	1,121	964	1,320	1,247	2,068	2,309	3,457	3,214	4,000	4,000
Malta	435	487	161	100	480	655	424	287	453	317	2/ 245
Spain			215	314	1,154	1,108	3,344	2,553	3,189	3,000	9,000
Total European countries reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		6,995	9,502	12,555	15,947	17,332	20,492	16,318	18,542	16,317	
Algeria	8/ 1,370	430	392	793	2,387	5,663	7,939	3,715	5,548	8,000	5,300
Morocco					134	415	738	369	351	369	
French West Africa											
Dahomey	3/ 664	3/ 1,274	3/ 1,445	3/ 1,483	3,943	6,549	4,718	3,920	-	8,025	
Ivory Coast 3/	9/ 212	326	914	1,211	3,727	6,314	6,730	5,713	7,145		
French Guinea	3/5/ 167	3/ 172	346	375	404	2,237	2,315	2,306	1,845		
Senegal		1,660	2,076	1,199	1,845	1,605	2,629	2,306	4,243	323	
French Sudan		3/ 310	5,535		7,462	6,065	5,255	12,222	12,822	12,822	
Upper Volta			231	4,612	10,972	12,683	2,906	3,874	2,168	2,675	
French Togo		3,130	3,538	4,595	7,388	5,677	7,661	7,084	9,431		
Niger Terr.					2,740	2,767	2,767	4,280	1,291	1,384	
Egypt	1,453,000	902,000	1,391,000	1,353,000	1,507,000	1,650,000	1,586,000	1,261,000	1,672,000	1,768,000	1,661,000
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	14,455	20,145	23,687	38,221	40,665	106,460	131,009	110,573	141,747	139,000	101,787
Italian Somaliland	3/ 510	3/ 94	1,196	1,750	2,305	2,537	2,767	3,828	7,034	5,083	
Eritrea	3/ 945	3/ 179	692	1,384	2,767	1,845	2,767	1,384	1,061	1,153	
Gold Coast	104	3/ 12	3/ 77	537	1,250		84	84	2/ 196		
Belgian Congo		4,512	6,964	15,833	13,836	16,142	22,539	27,557	44,390		
Kenya	552	460	1,004	1,674	3/ 1,883	3/ 1,712	3/ 1,031	3/ 1,039	1,860	1,036	1,000
Nigeria	5,702	12,632	14,082	21,365	10/ 32,760	10/ 40,091	10/ 22,982	10/ 17,495	10/ 26,817	10/ 36,492	
Angola					3,067	2,758	3,776	2,012	1,992		
Uganda	20,338	40,410	73,675	107,619	164,046	151,344	110,231	115,586	170,757	100,000	160,000
Tanganyika	3/11/ 7,971	6,132	6,004	9,568	15,726	18,179	20,315	13,360	27,576	23,251	15,400
Nyasaland	4,603	3,554	4,529	3,377	5,536	6,459	4,165	2,336	3,740	5,098	
S. Rhodesia			2	1,179	4,010	5,160	461	72	213	1,606	
N. Rhodesia	3/ 307	67	56	397	409	414	50	44	52		
Mozambique	3/ 388	1,041	1,504	5,955	2,496	2,230	11,952	11,956	12,605	2/ 7,192	
Union of S. Africa	75	1,762	5,460	7,300	14,172	17,055	8,571	9,216	8,179	13,485	8,117
Total African countries reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		990,799	1,525,303	1,553,208	1,793,580	2,005,100	1,912,359	1,554,097	2,082,867	2,108,113	
Cyprus	1,938	1,915	1,259	1,680	2,557	2,556	3,598	1,766	1,796	2,946	
Turkey (Asiatic)	12/ 102,116	2/ 30,000	2/ 30,000	2/ 57,000	78,400	105,172	97,000	179,412			
Syria and Lebanon			3,700	5,300	9,685	13,421	8,117	9,582	4,312	14,000	
Russia (Asiatic)	904,900	43,100	55,300	196,400	453,281	781,757	830,000	1,090,000	1,250,000	1,310,000	13/ 1,850,000
Iraq		50	251	837	2,092	2,125	2,929	1,508	4,287	3,851	2,500
Persia	2/3/ 136,000			3/	59,171	3/ 83,632	3/ 84,610	75,007	91,735		
India	3,585,000	3,752,000	4,245,000	4,320,000	5,095,000	5,201,000	4,205,000	4,990,000	4,863,000	14/ 4,402,000	4,033,000
China 15/	16/ 694,600	1,514,000	2,318,000	1,993,000	2,178,000	2,102,000	1,742,000	1,875,000	1,844,000	1,960,000	
Japan	4,704	3,447	2,884	2,316	2,785	1,561	1,123	1,100	943		
Chosen (Korea)	20,392	52,172	103,410	111,542	122,562	123,214	142,694	133,000	150,000	139,000	152,200
French Indo China	3/ 13,500	3/ 11,814	17/ 12,084	17/ 9,086	18/ 7,746	18/ 5,667	18/ 3,285	19/ 4,536	19/ 5,576	20/ 4,654	
Dutch E. Indies 3/	15,242	7,035	6,995	7,321	6,421	5,469	4,388	5,600	4,262	4,061	
Siam	3/ 3,623	3,648	5,005	3,062	4,336	4,624	2,747	2,885	2,756		
Total Asiatic countries reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		5,412,092	6,742,299	6,639,866	7,867,659	8,223,788	6,933,894	5,101,310	8,122,921	7,826,512	
Australia	75	2,795	5,796	10,042	12,277	5,692	4,431	7,714	5,268	11,000	
New Hebrides	8/ 547	1,590	2,512	1,828	3/ 2,131	3/ 3,821	2,348	2,582	1,542		
Total Oceanic reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		2,795	5,796	10,042	12,277	5,692	4,431	5,591	5,268		
Total all countries reporting for 1921-22 to 1929-30		15,226,674	19,030,276	19,394,445	24,417,241	27,508,326	28,037,607	23,657,842	25,862,757	25,972,753	
Estimated world total, including China		15,450,000	19,300,000	19,700,000	24,800,000	27,900,000	28,400,000	24,000,000	26,100,000	26,300,000	25,500,000

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Official courses and International Institute except as otherwise stated. Data are for crops harvested between August 1 and July 31 of the following year. For the United States prior to 1914 the figures apply to the year beginning September 1. In order to include figures for the smaller countries, exact number of bales were used.

1/ Bales of 475 pounds net.
2/ From an unofficial source.
3/ Exports.
4/ Figures for season 1915-16.
5/ Figures for one year only.
6/ Figures for land under old boundaries.
7/ Figures for 1911-12 only.
8/ Three year average.
9/ Two year average.
10/ Quantity marketed.
11/ Four year average.
12/ Figures for 1910-11 only.
13/ Approximate midpoint of range of reports.
14/ A cable of April 24 places the revised final estimate at 4,289,000 bales of 475 lbs. net.
15/ Figures are from the Chinese Economic Bulletin quoting the Chinese Mill Owners' Association except as noted. The figures represent the crop in the most important provinces where the commercial crop is grown.
16/ The average 1909-10 to 1913-14 is the commercial crop of China as estimated by the United States Bureau of the Census.
17/ Annam and Cambodia only.
18/ Annam, Cambodia, Cochin China.
19/ Annam, Cambodia, Cochin China and Laos.
20/ Annam, Cochin China and Laos.

3,870,000 acres reported finally planted in 1930. 1/ By June 5 plantings were reported to have reached 6,128,000 acres or 107.8 per cent of the area planned, and on June 20, 6,207,000 acres or 109.2 per cent of the plan. A more recent report states that the planted acreage has been revised downward and is now placed at 5,824,000 acres.

In spite of the quantitative success of this year's cotton planting campaign - an increase of about 50 per cent having been attained as compared with the 1930 revised acreage estimate - the Government plans with respect to the time of seeding operations were not realized. The campaign was supposed to be completed by May 10 in the important cotton producing regions of the Union, while the actual execution of the plan was only 72.2 per cent on that date for the Union as a whole. Thus, almost 30 per cent of the total acreage under cotton this year was planted later than planned and after the optimum dates had passed. Despite this delay as compared with the plans, this year's campaign may be regarded as having been completed under more favorable circumstances than that of 1930, plantings having amounted to only 1,799,000 acres or about 50 per cent of the respective plan on May 10, 1930.

The situation is considerably less favorable with respect to the qualitative side of this year's plan, which provides for a 20 per cent increase in yield as compared with last year. Numerous recent reports indicate that a considerable share of the cotton fields was poorly ploughed, and that cultivation is likely to be poor because of a prospective shortage in farm labor. The larger number of collectives and the better organization of work on these farms may tend to improve the situation to a certain extent, but it is extremely doubtful that the planned increase of yield will actually take place.

The rather unsatisfactory conditions with respect to irrigation is another factor supporting this view. Watering prior to seeding operations was rendered difficult by the prolonged cold weather and delayed melting of snow on the mountains, which supply the irrigation system with water. At the same time, the building of new channels has not been completed in time, and the conditions of those constructed or repaired is also reported very poor.

A significant change has occurred in the distribution of the Russian cotton acreage. In former years cotton was grown entirely in Turkestan or Central Asia and Transcaucasia, where its cultivation had a long tradition behind it. The acreage in other regions was insignificant and cotton cultivation there was for the most part of an experimental nature. Of the 1931 plantings, however, it appears from a detailed official report of Russian cotton sowings by regions on June 20, published in "Socialist Agriculture" of June 25 that nearly 18 per cent of the acreage is in the new cotton regions of North Caucasus, Dagestan, Ukraine and Crimea compared with 8.4 per cent in 1930-31 whereas, in 1929-30 only about 1 per cent of the country's cotton was in these regions according to the Control Figures of National Economy U.S.S.R. Although it is impossible to draw conclusions as to the yield that may be obtained in these newly developed regions, it must be recognized that there is always an element of risk in such developments. It may also be seen in the accompanying table that in these new regions the acreage planted to

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1/ The preliminary figure indicated total plantings of 4,366,000 acres.

June 20 this year was almost 204 per cent above plantings to that date last year. The increase in these new regions represents 40 per cent of the total increase in the acreage of U.S.S.R. this year. In Central Asia and Transcaucasia the increase above last year was 26 and 37 per cent respectively. This shows an increase of 42.2 per cent for the whole of Russia, but as pointed out above the total acreage has been revised both for this year and last, while revised acreages by regions have not been received as yet.

Table 2.- Russia: Distribution of cotton acreage planted to June 20, 1931 with comparisons

Regions	1930-31	1931-32	Percentage change from 1930-31 to 1931-32
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
Central Asia and Kazakstan			
Uzbekistan	2,296	2,839	+ 23.6
Turkmenistan	382	529	+ 38.5
Tadjikistan	313	314	+ 1.0
Kara Kalpak	1/	178	- -
Kirghizia	188	259	+ 37.8
Kazakstan	351	334	- 4.8
Total Central Asia and Kazakstan	3,530	4,453	+ 26.1
Percentage of Grand Total	80.8	71.7	
Transcaucasia			
Azerbaidjan	394	524	+ 33.0
Georgia	46	54	+ 17.4
Armenia	31	67	+ 116.1
Total Transcaucasia	471	645	+ 36.7
Percentage of Grand Total	10.8	10.4	
New Regions of Cotton Cultivation			
North Caucasus	232	556	+ 139.7
Dagestan	59	67	+ 13.6
Ukraine	47	400	+ 751.1
Crimea	18	84	+ 366.7
Lower Volga	9	2	- 77.8
Total New Regions	365	1,109	+ 203.8
Percentage of Grand Total	8.4	17.9	
Grand Total (unrevised)	4,366	6,207	+ 42.2

Compiled from "Socialist Agriculture" June 25, 1930 and 1931.
1/ No information given for 1930-31 - may have been included with Kazakstan.

Miscellaneous news

The International Cotton Congress

A Paris, France, dispatch on June 23 stated that at a meeting of the American section of the International Cotton Congress, the delegates were

practically unanimously in favor of a resolution adopted, which urged the United States Government to take necessary action to fix definite humidity standards. One speaker declared that moisture is sometimes deliberately added. The Egyptian section unanimously approved the agreement fixing the degree of humidity in Egyptian cotton at 8.5 per cent regain, with tolerance of 0.4 per cent either way.

First bale of the 1931 crop

The first bale of the 1931 cotton crop harvested was grown by W. M. Thorne, of La Sara, Willacy County, Texas and on June 29 was bought at auction in Corpus Christi by the Texas Cotton Cooperative Association for $350, according to the press. The bale will be sent to the American Cotton Cooperative Association at New Orleans.

Seeking new uses for Egyptian cotton

A recent dispatch from Cairo stated that the Egyptian Cabinet had decided to appropriate $250,000 for publicity to create new markets for Egyptian cotton.

Cotton bagging strongly endorsed

Plans are now being worked out by the Association for the Increased Use of Cotton for a vigorous campaign in every important cotton producing State to have this year's crop of cotton wrapped in cotton bagging. This movement has received encouragement from the announcement of nearly all cotton mills in the South that they will allow seven pounds extra weight to be added to cotton bales wrapped in standard 100 per cent cotton bagging. This announcement was issued from the general headquarters of the Association for the Increased Use of Cotton in Columbia, South Carolina. The Association has also taken up with the New England manufactures the matter of making allowance for the use of cotton bagging.

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